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(a) - producing a plurality of amplicates of a section of the [this] nucleic acid with the aid of two primers, one of which can bind to a first binding sequence (A) of one strand of the nucleic acid and the other can bind to a second binding sequence (C') which is essentially complementary to a sequence C which is located in the 3' direction from A and does not overlap A, in the presence of a probe with a binding sequence D which can bind to the third sequence (B) located between the sequences A and C or to the complement (B') thereof, wherein this probe contains a reporter group and a quencher group, using a polymerase having 5' nuclease activity, and

(b) - detecting the nucleic acid by measuring a signal which is caused by the release of the reporter group,

wherein the amplicates formed with the aid of the primers have a length of less than 75 nucleotides.

2. (Amended) The method of [Method as claimed in] claim 1, wherein the binding sequence D of the probe does not overlap one of the binding sequences of the primers.
3. (Amended) The method of claim 1 [Method as claimed in one of the previous claims], wherein at least one of the binding sequences is not specific for the nucleic acid to be detected.
4. (Amended) The method of claim 1 [Method as claimed in one of the previous claims], wherein the total length of the amplicates formed with the aid of the primers have a length of less than 61 nucleotides.
5. (Amended) The method of claim 1 [Method as claimed in one of the previous claims], wherein the probe is labelled with a fluorescence quencher as well as with a fluorescent dye.

6. (Amended) The method of claim 1 [Method as claimed in one of the previous claims], wherein at least one of the primers is not specific for the nucleic acid to be detected.
7. (Amended) The method of [Method as claimed in] claim 6, wherein two of the primers are not specific for the nucleic acid to be detected.
8. (Amended) The method of claim 6 [Method as claimed in one of the claims 6 and 7], wherein the probe is not specific for the nucleic acid to be detected.
9. (Amended) The method of claim 1 [Method as claimed in one of the previous claims], wherein nucleotides which are each complementary to A, G, C and T are used in the amplification.

REMARKS

Applicants have amended the claims to comply with U.S. patent practice in matters of form and to remove certain multiple dependency. After entry of this Amendment, claims 1-9 are pending in this application. The amendments do not introduce new matter. Entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

The total filing fee on the Transmittal Letter To The United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) Concerning A Filing Under 35 U.S.C. §371 is calculated on the basis of this Amendment.

Respectfully submitted

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